



NIH Environmental Management System

Take Action to Protect the Future



NEMS NEWS

February 2011



For more information:

www.nems.nih.gov

POINTS OF CONTACT:

NEMS/NIH GOES GREENER
COORDINATOR

Terry Leland

lelandt@mail.nih.gov

NEMS NEWS/EARTH DAY
PLANNING

Danita Broadnax

broadnaxd@mail.nih.gov

IC GREEN TEAM POINTS OF
CONTACT

[http://nems.nih.gov/teams/
team_contact.cfm](http://nems.nih.gov/teams/team_contact.cfm)



"THE GREEN SPOTLIGHT"

*Each month we will spotlight an employee or
topic of interest at the NIH.*

Our spotlight this month is shining on the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP).

I would like to introduce you to my Division, the Division of Environmental Protection within the Office of Research Facilities (ORF). I've been asked on several occasions what DEP does. Some of what DEP does affects you on a daily basis and some just on occasion, but we are always present. Our mission is to facilitate NIH research by fostering environmental stewardship, encouraging environmental sustainability, protecting human health, and safeguarding the air, water, and land. There are three branches within DEP that work together to achieve this mission, including planning the upcoming Earth Day.

The Environmental Compliance Branch (ECB) manages a wide range of environmental compliance requirements at NIH. These requirements include management of air pollution and water sources, management of wastewater requirements, and working with our campus wide construction projects to provide sediment erosion control and to provide stormwater management also working with others on the NIH fuel storage issues. The ECB ensures that Federal, state and local permit requirements are met, and provide regular interaction with regulatory agencies such as the Maryland Department of the Environment. The ECB manages the NIH decommissioning program to ensure laboratory and industrial areas are properly cleared for reuse or disposition. The ECB responds to spills and other incidents in support of mitigation, corrective items, and clean-up requirements to protect those at NIH and the environment.

The Environmental Quality Branch (EQB), which is my branch, is responsible for the NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS). We develop outreach, including the NEMS website, the annual mandatory environmental awareness training, and this newsletter, the NEMS News. We also work with the Green Teams providing guidance and support. Another important function of our branch is internal auditing. We conduct EMS and Environmental compliance auditing to ensure that all laws and regulations are followed at NIH facilities. Our National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) team reviews documents and analyzes the proposed action for potential impacts which may require further study in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. The NEPA review process requires that the potential environmental impacts of agency actions be considered before a decision is made to proceed with an action.

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MONTH THEME

January	Green New Year's Resolutions
February	Health & Worksite Wellness
March	Food and Water
April	Go Green Get Healthy
May	Transportation & Telework
June	Green Purchasing
July	Green and Healthy Offices
August	Electronics Mgt
September	Green Printing
October	Facilities & Energy
November	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
December	Green Your Holiday

GREEN SPOTLIGHT (CONTINUED)

The Waste Resource and Recovery Branch (WRRB) manage the collection and disposal of all chemical and solid waste on the main campus. This includes medical waste, trash, recycling, construction debris, batteries, solvents, and other hazardous chemicals. They collect and analyze data to find areas of improvement, both in their service and in environmental stewardship. WRRB also provide outreach regarding proper waste disposal and respond to various requests. The chemical waste team identifies opportunities to maximize the amount of chemical waste recycled, reduce the amount of toxic chemicals purchased and used, and reduce the amount of unused reagent chemicals that require costly disposal. The solid waste team identifies opportunities to increase the amount of material that is recycled, decrease the solid waste, and find new ways to divert items from going to the incinerator.

NEMS NEWS

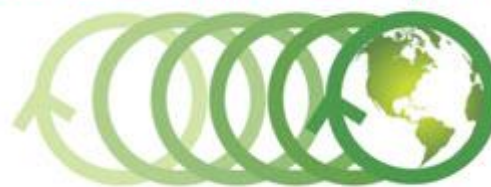
NIH is an OPDIV of the Health and Human Services and we are expected to work together to achieve the all mandated sustainability goals. HHS created a calendar to highlight environmental themes of interest throughout the year. Themes are listed in the left margin of this newsletter, and the full calendar can be accessed at:

http://intranet.hhs.gov/building/sustainability_calendar.html

Other HHS Sustainability info can be found at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/about/sustainability.html>

Go Green Get Healthy HHS



ENERGY/WATER • ENVIRONMENT • ELECTRONICS • PROCUREMENT
SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS • TRANSPORTATION

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Green Team Leads Council Meeting

Wednesday February 16th 1:00-3:00
Bldg 10 Hatfield 2-3750

Earth Day Planning

Tuesday March 8th 1:00-2:30
Bldg. 50 Room 1328/1334

Sustainable Labs Working Group

Wednesday February 23rd 1:30-2:30
Bldg 31/6C Room 7

